



# Warwickshire Climate Change Community Newsletter

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/climatechangepartnership](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/climatechangepartnership)

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## Long Marston Flood Team

### Origin and Aims

A survey carried out in support of a Village Appraisal revealed that 68.2% of the residents of Long Marston had been affected by flooding following exceptional rainfall in 1998. Consequently we set up our sub-group of the Village Appraisal Committee in spring 2000 and undertook to investigate the condition of the local drainage system and to instigate any necessary actions to reduce the likelihood and severity of flooding in future. We carried out a visual inspection of the ditches and culverts, devised a questionnaire to elicit information from village residents, interviewed people who had knowledge of the drainage system, located problem areas, represented our findings on maps, and held an open day to elicit more information and inform residents of progress.

### Awards

We were loaned a surveyor's level and were granted £50 by Stratford District Council to purchase a levelling staff. In September 2002 Shell Better Britain Campaign granted us £1500 which has enabled us to buy drain tracing dye, manhole-lifting keys and fluorescent safety jackets and also employ the services of a consultant. He assisted with technical opinion on our findings and support on further surveys to determine catchment areas, drainage routes and flows in the drainage system and helped us to understand the village flooding mechanisms. He has made suggestions for improvements to the drainage system. He studied our findings and in November 2002 walked around the area to make his own observations. He then had very fruitful meetings with District Council (SDC), Warwickshire County Council (WCC) concerning their responsibilities for various parts of the drainage system. In 2003 we received an award for reaching joint second place in the Village Ventures Competition

### Progress

- The drainage system is now largely mapped and understood.
- We hand-dug a short channel to prevent run off from a field into a garden.
- We cleared refuse from a ditch and employed a contractor to dig a relief channel to a new ditch that had been provided by housing developers. We located buried manholes and got them exposed to aid jetting.

- Our consultant identified three main drainage ditches which, with restoration, would remove large volumes of water from the village. Stratford District Council offered major funding for the Flood Team to employ contractors for this work. The Flood Team thought that the Parish Council was a more appropriate body to control the money and therefore became a sub committee of the PC with a member of the PC co-opted as a Flood Team member.
- The three ditches have now been improved and carry large volumes of water when there is heavy rainfall. We have received co-operation from the District Council, the County Council Highways Department, the Countryside Ranger, village volunteers and landowners. We are still finding that there are details of the storm water drainage system that are not understood or are possibly blocked. We hope to get assistance from the appropriate authorities to jet-clean or rod these out.
- A major stumbling block has been the need for several landowners to agree to a scheme: several times lack of co-operation has caused a scheme to be abandoned or abbreviated. Nevertheless we have succeeded in getting many head walls rebuilt, ditches cleared, and culverts cleared or enlarged. The work will never be completed because ditches continually deteriorate and continually need attention. We believe that we have helped to make the improvements more rapid than the deterioration so that we are now in a better condition to receive the heavier rainfall that we can expect in future.
- After some persuasion, Severn Trent agreed to investigate the involvement of sewers in the flooding incidents that occur during heavy rainfall. We distributed a questionnaire to help them to decide the magnitude of the problem. They initiated a very costly survey of the sewers and have now undertaken to repair the system and to co-operate with householders who experienced problems with flooding via the sewers.

For more information on the groups activities please contact John Spittle on [john.spittle@homecall.co.uk](mailto:john.spittle@homecall.co.uk)



## Funding Opportunities



### BT Community Connections

BT Community Connections is an award scheme which enables community and charitable organisations to get online and make use of information and communication technology. This year any organisation, working in any field of community benefit, located anywhere within the United Kingdom can apply for a laptop and a years free broadband connectivity. For more information log onto [www.btcommunityconnections.com](http://www.btcommunityconnections.com)

### Energy Monitors Being Loaned Out by Stratford Library



Stratford Library will shortly begin a trial to loan out 5 OWL energy monitors to library members. The equipment has been bought by Warwickshire County Council's Climate Change Team and is designed to help people monitor and reduce their electricity usage. Customers will need to provide their library card number and name and the monitors will be manually issued for 3 weeks. Customers need to provide their own batteries but other than that there are no charges at present. For the duration of the trial only users of Stratford Library will be able to borrow the OWLs.

### Warwickshire County Council set up network of Energy Advisors

Warwickshire County Council has set up a network of volunteers to promote energy savings around it's buildings. Currently there are 44 volunteers spread across the county who are checking that electrical equipment is not unnecessarily being left on. The Energy Advisors as they have chosen to be called also communicate to staff about saving which can be made and how to make these saving at both home and work.

## Local News



**Screenings of the film Age of Stupid** will be shown at Snitterfield Sports Club on Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 7:45pm with a free curry plus beer or wine. Tickets are free however a £3 refundable deposit is required to secure seat and food. Tickets can be obtained from Snitterfield Sports Club, Snitterfield Stores or by calling 731348.

**Kenilworth School Food Show** - On Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> October Kenilworth School hope to host a community event promoting home grown and local food. Plans for the event are still in the early stages, but watch this space.

## Have your say



This is your newsletter and your opportunity to publicise any events you may be holding, and let other groups know what you are currently up to share your experiences. What do you want to see in future editions?

Please send all comments or enquiries about this newsletter and suggestions, for news items, case studies, details of events etc to [emmaclarke@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:emmaclarke@warwickshire.gov.uk)

## Tip Of The Month



Forget the car, get on your bike get fit, get around and see the world at an entirely different pace

For more Information go to [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)